

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /067 W
-----120605 261320Z /43

P R 251254Z AUG 78
FM AMCONGEN NAPLES IT
TO AMEMB ROME IT PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6237
AMCONGEN FLORENCE IT
AMCONGEN GENOA IT 129
AMCONGEN MILAN IT 217
AMCONGEN PALERMO IT 159
AMCON TRIESTE IT(POUCH)
AMCONSUL TURIN IT
USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

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USDOCOSOUTH
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IT
SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROVERSIES
REF: FLORENCE 0545, ROME 15462
SUMMARY: WESTWINDSOF AUGUST RIPPLE THE WATERS OF THE PLACID TYR-

PAGE 02 RUFRSGG1928 C O N F I D E N T I A L
RHENIAN SEA. THEY PRESAGE AN UNSETTLED SEPTEMBER BUT NOT CERTAIN
STORMS. SO TOO,AUGUST POLITICAL CONTROVERSY. WITHIN OR CONCERNING
LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE SOUTH FORESHADOW SEPTEMBER
POLEMICS CERTAINLY,BUT NOT NECESSARILY LOCAL GOVERNMENT CRISES OR
GREATER PARALYSIS THAN AT PRESENT. END SUMMARY.
1. REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CRISES IN BOTH CALABRIA AND CAMPANIA WERE
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RESOLVED ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO BUT GOVERNING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE AL-
READY BEEN CALLED INTO QUESTION. IN CALABRIA THE PSI IS TROUBLING
THE AUGUST WATERS,CASTING BLAME FOR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT "IMMOBILISM"
ON THE PCI-LED REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (THE SO-CALLED "SUPER GIUNTA
SET-UP IN MARCH AS A CONCESSION TO THE PCI - SEE NAPLES 531). AC-
CORDING TO PSI DEPUTY ALDO ANIASI (RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL GOVERN-
MENTS), THE PSI IN CALABRIA WILL CALL FOR AN "IMMEDIATE VERIFICATION

OF THE FIVE PARTY PROGRAM ACCORD". IN CAMPANIA THE PCI IS VERBALLY ASSAULTING THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH THE COMMUNISTS LAST MAY CALLED "A SIGNIFICANT FORWARD STEP". SEVERAL WEEKS AGO PCI REGIONAL SECRETARY BASSOLINO DECLARED THE GOVERNING ARRANGEMENT INADEQUATE AND STATED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD RETURN TO THE OPPOSITION IF THEY WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE GIUNTA.

2. THERE ARE SEVERAL CITY GOVERNMENT CRISES. IN CATANZARO, CALABRIA

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THE PCI MAKES ITS USUAL DEMANDS (EITHER GIUNTA PARTNERSHIP OR OPPOSITION) AND THE PSI RETAINS ITS PRE-TURIN CONGRESS POSTURE, PERHAPS BASED ON REVISED STRATEGY, THREATENING TO JOIN WITH THE PCI IN OPPOSITION IF COMMUNIST DEMANDS NOT MET. SINCE THE DC HAS A MAJORITY OF CITY COUNCIL SEATS IT MAY WELL RESIST THREATS AND PRESSURES. AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE CATANZARO PSI DEMANDS FULL COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY GOVERNMENT, THE SOCIALISTS IN THE PUGLIAN TOWN OF LUCERA (30.000 INHABITANTS) REFUSED TO JOIN WITH THE PCI WITH WHICH IT COULD HAVE FORMED A MAJORITY PREFERRING INSTEAD A CENTER/LEFT ARRANGEMENT WITH THE DC.

3. WHAT DOES THIS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROVERSY PRESAGE? REGIONAL SECRETARIES OF BOTH DC AND PSI TELL US THAT IT MEANS AN AUTUMN OF POLEMICS BUT PROBABLY NOT ONE OF POLITICAL CRISES. IN FACT THE CAMPANIA REGIONAL PSI SECRETARY REITERATED TO US THAT THE GOI IS LIKELY TO ENDURE ATLEAST UNTIL THE SPRING 1979 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE FEARED FOR SOCIAL UNREST (PARTICULARLY IN NAPLES) NOT POLITICAL INSTABILITY AS THE SYSTEM AGAIN FAILS TO MEET EXPECTATIONS. FOLLOWING EARLY AUGUST PCI ATTACKS ON THE CAMPANIA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, DC OFFICIALS TOLD THE CONSULATE THAT THE PCI POSE WAS PRIMARILY FOR PARTY PURPOSES. THE PCI IS AWARE THAT IT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED ON

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THE GIUNTA AND SHOULD IT CHOOSE OPPOSITION IT MIGHT WELL BE LEFT THERE AS THE LAY PARTIES ACCEPT A DC "MONOCOLORE". ALTHOUGH SOME NATIONAL POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS TALK OF A "HOT AUTUMN" WHICH WILL THREATEN GOI STABILITY, OUR AUGUST INTERLOCUTORS FEEL THAT TRADE UNION BARGAINING WILL BE CONTAINED WITHIN PARAMETERS ACCEPTED BY ALL PARTIES.

4. THE FORECAST HERE THEN IS:

(A) INCREASED POLEMICS --- THE PCI WILL DEMAND FULL PARTNERSHIP ON GIUNTAS AND THREATEN TO GO INTO OPPOSITION BUT PUBLIC AGGRESSIVENESS MAY BE PRIMARILY VERBAL. THE PSI WILL RESPOND TO OR INITIATE ATTACKS ON THE PCI AS IT LOOKS TO GROW AT COMMUNIST EXPENSE. THE SOCIALISTS MAY FOCUS ON NAPLES IN HOPE OF CUTTING DEEPLY INTO PCI STRENGTH HERE. NEAPOLITAN LOYALTY TO POLITICAL PARTIES IS LOW AND

THE VOTE FLUCTUATES WIDELY. THUS PSI HAS REASON TO HOPE, ESPECIALLY
SINCE MSI, DC AND PCI HAVE ALL FAILED TO PRODUCE PROMISED RESULTS.
(B) LIMITED POLITICAL CRISES --- UNTIL THE PCI/PSI RELATIONSHIP IS
CLARIFIED AND DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ROME THERE IS LITTLE
ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN POLITICAL CRISES. THEY BECOME DEBILITATING AND
AND ARE NOT UNDERSTOOD BY THE ELECTORATE. POLITICIANS PRIVATELY SAY
THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO AVOID THEM. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL SOON

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BE AN OPEN PSI BREAK WITH THE PCI LEADING TO FORMATION OF NEW
CENTER/LEFT GIUNTAS IN THE ONE DOZEN OR SO FAIR SIZED TOWNS IN OUR
CONSULAR DISTRICT WITH LEFTIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, THE
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CASE OF ANDRIA, PUGLIA MIGHT BE INSTRUCTIVE. THERE THE MAY
ELECTIONS LEFT BOTH THE PCI AND DC WITH 17 SEATS. WHETHER THE
CITY GOVERNMENT IS CENTER/LEFT OR A CONTINUATION OF THE LEFTIST
GIUNTAS OF RECENT YEARS DEPENDS ON THE PSI. IT'S DECISION IS AWAITED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAPLES01678
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-0137
Format: TEL
From: NAPLES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780823/aaaaatgs.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8159755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 FLORENCE 545, 78 ROME 15462
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1621192
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROVERSIES
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8159755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014